

Message Text

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40

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 ACDA-19 GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

RSR-01 /149 W

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R 141601 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8047

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS VIENNA 2065

HELSINKI FOR MPT DELEGATION

E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR

SUBJ: ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER REMARKS ON ME

REF: FBIS 0722054, MARCH 13,1973

1. DURING HIS CURRENT FOUR- DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRIA, ISRAELI FONMIN ABBA EBAN USED OCCASION OF TWO EXCLUSIVE PRESS INTERVIEWS ON MARCH 13 (INDEPENDENT DURIER AND SOCIALIST ARBEITER- ZEITUNG), AS WELL AS MARCH 14 PRESS CONFERENCE TO PRAISE US EFFORTS IN SEEKING SOLUTION TO ME DISPUTE AND VIRTUALLY TO EXLCUDE ANY UN ROLE IN WETTTLING ARAB- ISRAELI CONFLICT. HE FURTHER ACHNOWLEDGED ROLE PLAYED BY EGYPT AND EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT OVER LEBANESE POLICY.

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2. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF EBAN' S REMARKS: RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON US MEDIATION EFFORTS, EBAN SAID" WE ARE WATCHING US EANDEAVORS WITH GREAT HOPE BECAUSE AMERICANS ADHERE TO CLEAR CONCEPT OF MILITARY BALANCE IN ME; SECONDLY, WASHINGTON IS OPPOSED TO AN IMPOSED PEACE: AND THRIDLTY, THE US IS IN DIFFERENT POSITION FROM THAT OF THE OTHER MAJOR POWERS SINCE IT IS THE ONLY COUNTRY TO WHICH ALL PARTIES TO THE ME CONFLICT REALLY WANT TO SUBMIT THEIR DESIRES AND DEMANDS".

3. CONCERNING US PROPOSAL FOR INTERIM SOLUTION, EBAN RESTATED WELL- KNOWN GOI POSITION THAT TRUE PEACE MUST BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN PARTIES THEMSELVES ALTHOUGH ISRAEL IS NOT OPPOSED TO INTERIM SOLUTION THAT MIGHT BE EXPLORED THROUGH GOOD OFFICES OF OTHER NATIONS. " USG BELIEVE THAT THE CARPET MUST BE UNROLLED AT ONE CORNER AND THAT SUEZ CANAL COULD BE THAT CORNER." HE INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT INTERIM SOLUTION WOULD ONLY BE USEFUL IF FOLLOWED BY NEGOTIATIONS.

4. RESPONDING TO QUESTION OF " EGYPT' S RECENT DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE", EBAN SAID HE SAW NO CHANGE IN EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE EXCEPT THAT " EGYPTIANS NOW ALSO GO TO WASHINGTON" WHICH REFLECTS THE FACT THAT ALL CONCERNED-- EGYPT, JORDAN AND ISRAEL-- HAVE ACCESS TO USG. UNDERSCORING THIS POINT, HE NOTED THAT US NOW HAS STRONGER POSITION IN ARAB WORLD " DESPITE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL OR RATHER BECAUSE OF IT". FROM THIS HE CONCLUDED " IF YOU WANT TO START TALKING TO THE ARABS TAKE A CLEAR POSITION CONCERNING ISRAEL: YOU WILL THEN ATTRACT THEM LIKE A MAGNET ATTRACTS METAL".

5. CONCERNING THE UNITED NATIONS, EBAN CONTENTED THAT THE UN FINDS ITSELF IN STATE OF PERMANENT CRISIS AND IT CANNOT PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ANY CONFLICT. IN SOME- WHAT IMPOLITIC REFERENCE TO AUSTRIAN- BORN SYG. EBAN STATED THAT" WALDHEIM' S ROLE AT VIETNAM CONFERENCE IN PARIS UNDERLINED STEADY LOSS OF UN PRESTIGE: THE SYG WOULD VIRTUALLY HAVE TO CREAT NEW ORGANIZATION TO GET UN OUT OF ITS PRESENT AGONY". HE FURTHER STATED THAT GREATEST CONTRIBUTIONTHE UN COULD MAKE TO ME CRISIS WOULD BE TO IGNORE THE PROBLEM FOR A YEAR
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OR TWO.

6. EBAN STATED THAT ISRAEL WOULD OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH FIRST ARAB STATE TO COME TO CONFERENCE TABLE BUT THOUGHT BECAUSE OF EGYPT' S POSITION IN THE ARAB WORLD ONE MUST ASSUME THAT EGYPT HAS TO PLAY PRIMARY ROLE IN ME NEGOTIATIONS. CONCERNING PRESIDENT SADAT, EBAN NOTED THAT IT IS TO HIS CREDIT THAT SUEZ CANAL CEASE FIRE HAS BEEN OBSERVED SINCE HE CAME TO POWER AND THAT HE HAS NEVER EMBARKED ON" ADVENTURES" ALTHOUGH HE HAS AT VARIOUS TIMES SPOKEN OF " THE INEVITABILITY OF BATTLE".

7. ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF COMING TO AN UNDERSTANDING WITH LEBANON, EBAN REPLIED THAT LEBANESE POLICY IS ABSOLUTELY INCOMPREHENSIBLE. " EVERYONE BELIEVES ME CONFLICT IS BORDER PROBLEM BUT THIS IS UNTRUE. THERE ARE NO BORDER QUESTIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON HENCE THE PROBLEM IS AN IDEOLOGICAL ONE". HE CHARACTERIZED LEBANON AS THE " WORLD' S MOST UNCIVILIZED STATE. IT IS THE CENTER OF TERROR. ON THE ONE HAND LEBANON ENJOYS SUPPORT OF AMERICA ANDBELGIUM WHILE ON THE OTHER THE KILLING OF AMERICAN AND BELGIAN DIPLOMATS WAS PLANNED IN BEIRUT".

8. IN MARCH 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, EBAN COVERED ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS, BUT MADE ADDITIONAL REFERENCES TO GOI INTEREST IN " HOT LINE"; EXCLUSION OF ME CONSIDERATION IN CSCE; AND LIMITED WITHDRAWAL FROM SUEZ CANAL IF IT IS PART OF OVERAL NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

9. EBAN REMARKS AT DINNER GIVEN BY FONMIN DIRCHSCHLAEGER CARRIED IN FBIS 0722054, MARCH 13, 1973. HUMES

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